

**MINUTES**  
**BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING**

Scriber Center  
1750 Washington  
Helena, MT 59601  
Thursday, July 20, 2006

In attendance were Montana Historical Society Board of Trustees members Jim Court, Tom Foor, Bill Holt, George Horse Capture, Kent Kleinkopf, Katherine Lee, Jack Lepley, Sharon Lincoln, Steve Lozar, Jim Murry, Tom Nygard, Lee Rostad, Crystal Wong Shors and Jim Utterback. Also in attendance were MHS Director Richard Sims, MHS Centralized Services Manager Jody Brandt, MHS Research Center Program Manager Molly Kruckenberg, MHS Director of Museum Services Susan Near, MHS Administrative Officer Gena Ashmore, MHS Fiscal Officer Beth Campbell, MHS Curator of Art Kirby Lambert, Montana History Foundation Executive Director Amy Sullivan, Friends of the Society President Marge Jacobson and MHS Administrative Assistant Vanessa Verrill. Also addressing the Board was Education Officer Linda Wruck.

**CALL TO ORDER**

President Lee Rostad called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. Lee requested that everyone in the room introduce themselves.

**Election/Installation of New Board Officers**

Judy Cole, who was elected president of the Board in the April meeting, was not reappointed to the Board of Trustees. As moved in the April meeting, in the event that Judy was not reappointed to the Board, Sharon Lincoln would become president and Jim Murry vice president. Lee Rostad would serve as past president, and Tom Foor and Shirley Groff as members. Bill Holt, chair of the Nominating Committee, nominated Jim Utterback to fill the vacant position on the Executive Committee. He asked for any nominations from the floor, and none were given. **Steve Lozar moved to approve the nominations of Sharon Lincoln as President, Jim Murry as vice-President, and Jim Utterback as Secretary; Bill Holt seconded, all voted in favor, and the motion passed.** Bill Holt welcomed all the new Trustees and the new Director, Richard Sims.

**Announcements**

George Horse Capture asked if he could open the meeting with prayer. After the prayer, Lee Rostad turned the meeting over to the new president, Sharon Lincoln. Sharon thanked Lee for the wonderful job she had done as president. She also thanked Richard Sims for coming on board at the Society.

**REVIEW OF MINUTES**

**Jim Utterback moved to approve the minutes from the April 20, 2006 meeting, Tom Foor seconded, all voted in favor, and the motion passed.**

## **DIRECTOR'S QUARTERLY REPORT**

Mark Baumler presented the Director's Quarterly Report on behalf of Richard Sims. Mark thanked the Trustees for the opportunity he was given to serve as the Interim Director.

Mark explained various items in the Board packet and highlighted several items in the Quarterly Report. Ellen Baumler was asked to give a tour of Helena and the surrounding area with a stipulation that the attendees become members of the Society, which accounted for 4 or 5 new members. Mark passed around a catalog of newly acquired pieces from the Craney Collection that are being donated to the Society from the Greater Montana Foundation.

Money that was saved by not filling Mark's position in SHPO during his stint as Interim Director is being used for a re-grant program to help preserve agricultural buildings. This will consist of three \$5,000 grants.

The Tourism Advisory Council (TAC) is calling together all State agencies that participate in funding from Bed Tax (accommodation tax). The goal of this summit is to get all of the recipients to come up with one proposal to take to the Legislature in the next session for how best to distribute the Bed Tax. Richard Sims will attend the next meeting at the end of July. With the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Commission, the Society receives \$625,000 in Bed Tax, but once the Commission is dissolved, the Society will receive about \$425,000 per fiscal year. The Society also receives 1% for the Sites and Signs program.

The Society is also a key player in the Governor's Historic and Cultural Property Advisory Council. This is an interim legislative council to look at how the State manages historic properties that it owns. The Council is preparing a recommendation for the Governor on how the State could better manage its historic properties. The recommendation is not just to say that more money is needed, but also to look at policy changes and how the State agencies manage these properties. The Council's recommendations will have an effect on the Preservation Office as well as the Society as a whole.

The Society has been forced to close the doors on the Montana Heritage Project. This project was funded solely by the Art Ortenberg – Liz Claiborne Foundation, which withdrew its support for the upcoming year. The Foundation has indicated that it would be interested in a discussion of an on-going program, but for the time being, it felt the time had come to withdraw its funds. All Project staff have all been laid off. Jody Brandt worked to make sure these employees received their reduction-in-force benefits from the Art Ortenberg – Liz Claiborne Foundation, and the Foundation covered most if not all of these expenses. Jim Murry asked for clarification on what was meant by "on-going program," and Mark responded that Ortenberg and Claiborne indicated that they would like to meet with Richard Sims once he was on board. Richard said that he would speak with Mr. Ortenberg, and the Society does need to bring back the Montana Heritage Project as this is the Society's portal to high schools in Montana. Teenagers are a constituency that historical societies and museums have a hard time holding on to. It is unfortunate that Mr. Ortenberg ceased that funding, and it is also unfortunate that there was just one source of funding. The Arizona Heritage Project was done more methodically, with funding

from major corporations and newspapers, because it did not have a sole source for funding. When Richard left Arizona, they had a half-time person, Dr. Ed Berger, serving six or seven high schools. Richard would like to see the Society get to that level in two years, which would be a modest rebooting of the Montana Heritage Project. There are high school teachers that highly regarded the work of the Project to serve their students, and Richard will begin visiting with them. Richard would also like to thank Mr. Ortenberg for his previous funding of the program.

Mark Baumler reported that Jeff Tiberi resigned from the Montana Heritage Commission, so the Commission will be looking for a new Executive Director. Mark believes Jeff was its first and only Executive Director. Jeff had a long and successful tenure there.

The highlight of the quarter was the hiring of Richard Sims, and Mark thanked the Board for letting him be part of the search. Sharon Lincoln thanked Mark for doing a marvelous job.

### **FINANCIAL REVIEW**

Jody Brandt presented the financial schedules for the quarter ending June 30, 2006. At the last Board meeting Jody reported that she anticipated that the Society would be short about \$40,000 in the budget. Working with the Budget Office and due to a little readjusting, we were able to balance the budget. The Budget Office approved the requested \$77,000 personal service contingency funds for the Society to make it through the end of the year. The agency as a whole did not reach the 4% vacancy savings. Jody thanked Molly Kruckenberg for helping the Society as the Research Center had several positions vacant for the entire fiscal year. Even with staff shortages, Molly was still able to keep her program going. The Financial Report is through June 30, 2006. An updated Financial Report will be given at the next meeting and will include the whole fiscal year.

Jim Utterback explained, using an entrance fee handout, that the Society will run out of money slower than previously thought, but it still runs out of money. It is very important that the shortages are addressed and that additional revenue is raised through admission fees. Admission fees cover some core positions at the Society. Much of the deficit in 2006 came from paying out Arnie Olsen's vacation time. A lot of museums around Montana charge entrance fees. The entrance fees are important, and maybe the Society's fees should be raised. The Society began charging entrance fees in 2002 and raised the fees in 2003. Jack Lepley commented that the Society should be comparable to the other museums in Montana such as the Museum of the Rockies and even his museum in Fort Benton. Lee Rostad mentioned that since the Society is a State agency, many people feel that they pay for it in State taxes. Sharon Lincoln said that her understanding is that the Society is expected to raise some of its own money, and it is difficult for the Society to fundraise when people think the Society is completely State funded. Jim Utterback said that the Society has a \$5,500,000 budget, and \$1,000,000 of that has to be raised by the Society. Jody added that the general fund portion is only about 40%, so the State really only kicks in about 40%. The rest has to be raised through entrance fees, donations, and memberships. Jim Court asked what the cost of collecting fees is. Jody answered that there are no additional costs for fee collection as it is done at the guard station. The only possibility of extra cost is a seasonal guard, but that person would most likely need to be hired anyway to cover for vacations and summer visitation.

Kent Kleinkopf asked Richard if entrance fees are an issue that he is interested in and if the Trustees needed to take action on fees during this meeting. Richard said that no action was needed as this time, but more conversation and deliberation needs to happen. Richard shepherded a bill in the Arizona legislature to start charging an entrance fee in the Sharlot Hall museum. The Society needs to market itself to have company-sponsored days so people can come in for free but the Society would receive money from these companies. George Horse Capture asked if the citizens of Montana complained about paying fees as well as paying taxes. There have been few complaints. Sharon Lincoln suggested that Richard needs time to examine the whole situation and report back to the Board at the next meeting. Jim Utterback added that Richard could work with the Finance Committee to develop a recommendation.

Crystal Shors asked if anyone knew why the attendance numbers fluctuate. She wanted to know if other comparisons have been done to see if other museum's numbers have been fluctuating. Jack Lepley said that based on his experience with the Lewis & Clark Bicentennial and museums in Fort Benton and Great Falls, it is very obvious that not as many people are traveling lately; tourism is down. Jim Court commented that the North Dakota museum is not on the comparison sheet and is probably more comparable to the Montana Historical Society. He said there is also a correlation between entrance fees and visitation; when entrance fees went up, visitation went down. Sharon Lincoln asked if the Board agreed that they revisit this after Richard has more time to research, and all agreed.

Jim Murry said that he does not like having entrance fees, and he is concerned that people are not able to tour the museum if they do not have the money. Jim Utterback was curious as to how many people actually turn away when they find out there is an entrance fee, and that number should be tracked. Gena Ashmore stated that the guards let people in free if they have any inclination that they cannot afford the fee. Tom Nygard mentioned that some museums have free admission but they have a donation box at the entrance. Katherine Lee thought the box could be considered to help subsidize people who cannot pay. She also said that we should show people the expenses that they are paying for versus where their tax dollars are going. Tom Nygard added that some museums charge fees for specific shows. Jody Brandt mentioned that a box could be put out on Thursday nights when the Society has its free public programs. George Horse Capture said that his experience with donation boxes is that they are not worth the trouble.

Jody Brandt thanked the Board and reported that Beth Campbell will be handling her position in the interim until the position is filled. Sharon Lincoln thanked Jody for the great job that she had done and complimented her work on the Financial Reports.

## **OLD BUSINESS/UPDATES**

### **Montana History Foundation**

Amy Sullivan welcomed everyone to the Scriver Center and reported that the Foundation was able to write a check for more than \$40,000 for staff development and salaries on June 30. She also said that she is looking forward to working with Richard in the years ahead. She thanked everyone for their condolences that she received during the past month.

### **A Society to Match the Scenery**

Richard Sims said that he will be referring to a phrase by Wallace Stegner regarding how the past has contributed and how the future has so much potential in the American West. This phrase is “a society that fits the scenery,” but Richard has modified it to “a society to match the scenery.” When referring to “society” he is not talking about human society but the Montana Historical Society and the opportunity to grow a Society that matches the scenery of the Treasure State.

Richard thanked everyone for surviving the cooking crew of Utterback, Murry and Sims at the Board/Staff picnic, and he enjoyed jumping in and helping out.

Richard remarked on the announcement of Dave Walter’s death that those who knew Dave Walter the best will miss him the most. Richard had only two conversations with Dave, but he looked forward to working with him and learning from him. Perhaps in time, something can be done that would be a lasting legacy in Dave Walter’s name.

Richard’s first task in his first week has been to meet with all employees from senior professionals to seasonal employees. He is meeting with everyone for 20 – 30 minutes to learn his team. So far these meetings have been very beneficial to him. Clearly he has come on board to a group of professionals that are highly productive and dedicated and are ready to move forward. He is asking everyone three questions: What were you hired to do? What are you doing now? What would you like to be doing?

During the first meeting he had with the Program Managers Richard requested that everyone start looking at everything the Society does outside of Helena. Richard would like to push-pin a map of Montana with all of our outreach to make sure Montana is well blanketed. Some of our work is to remind Montanans that we are out there serving them.

Richard appreciated the financial briefing that Jody Brandt gave him the day before and said that even though she will not be here, she is willing to come back and brief him some more. He said that every number has a story and he wants to learn all of the stories.

Richard sat in on his first Montana Heritage Commission board meeting and took part in the discussion of finding an interim director on the way to recruiting a permanent director. He thanked Amy Sullivan and the Montana History Foundation for their recent check of \$40,000, and he looks forward to working with Amy. He also visited with Jonathan Kraus, the Society’s lawyer, and suggested to Mr. Kraus that he attend a Board meeting. His question to Kraus was whether the Society has to work only with him or are we allowed to seek pro bono advice from other attorneys in Helena or elsewhere in the State. Mr. Kraus was not sure and will look into it.

Richard would like to start writing a weekly column for the newspapers. This is a good way to keep him and the Society in the public eye. He wants to make sure it is not just Lee newspapers but other newspapers across the State. He also wants to visit with each Board member in his/her part of the state. These meetings will be scheduled over the next several months. He has asked

the guards at the front desk, whom he also regards as visitor services people, to collect zip codes of everyone who enters the museum. This data will be compiled for use at a future date.

### **Senate Art Project**

Gena Ashmore reported that the Senate Art project continues to be a challenge. To date, 40 maquettes and 677 bronze medallions have been sold. The monument waxes are ready for the artist, Eugene Daub, to inspect at Kalispell Art Casting, and then it will be cast. The final piece should be ready to install at the end of September. A dedication ceremony is being planned for November 27. The project is still on schedule, but there will be a cash shortage. Mark Baumler pledged \$30,000 from the Art Acquisition fund. We are estimating a shortage of \$31,000 in October after all expenses are paid, but every time a maquette is sold, that shortage is reduced. Gena wanted to maintain that this is a successful project. Once the piece is installed, she is confident that every maquette will sell.

The main problem has been with the foundry. Every month a museum staff person has to go to the foundry to check the quality of the maquettes. Trying to keep the foundry on a schedule has also been a challenge. The foundry has not produced maquettes fast enough to give us any to stock. If someone wants to purchase a maquette, since there are none in stock, a deposit of \$350 is taken. With a deposit of \$350 as opposed to the full amount of \$3,500, the cash flow does not increase as fast.

The Lewis & Clark Bicentennial Commission is meeting on July 21. The Commission could have as much as \$45,000 available in November from the sale of tags. If approved in the meeting, the Commission will lend us \$30,000 to cover our shortage and complete the project through installation. At this point, there will be three loans that will need to be repaid when all of the maquettes have been sold.

What is needed is more one-on-one sales. It is not the advertising that has been helping as much as individual people going out and selling the maquettes. Hal Stearns, Clint Blackwood, Jack Lepley and Duane Grimes have been very helpful with this.

George Horse Capture wanted to know if all the effort and time and taking Gena away from her primary job was worth it and if there was another way. Gena responded that this was an unfunded mandate from the Montana Senate. All costs have been tracked, and in the end, if there is some money left over and someone tries to claim it, she will submit her labor costs. The net profit is still estimated because there are a lot of numbers that are not definite.

Richard said that this could be a political point if needed by showing the Senate what the Society did for it so now what can the Senate do for us. Jim Murry asked about putting a maquette on display at the Capitol. Gena said that security is an issue, and also because we do not have any extra maquettes in stock, this would take away from one that could be sold, but we will try to do some sort of display at the Capitol. Jack Lepley said that in the end, no matter how hard the project has been, this will be a lasting memory of the bicentennial of Lewis & Clark.

### **Executive Planning Process/Budget – Legislation**

Richard reported that he has been engaged with Mark Baumler and Jody Brandt in learning about the EPP. The Executive Committee discussed the legislation that is being sought on behalf of the Society in its meeting. Jim Murry said that the three legislative recommendations that were submitted to the Governor's Office was turned down with no explanation. Jim has been trying to meet with Bruce Nelson to talk about this.

### **NENUK Exhibit**

Kirby Lambert reported on the "Neither Empty Nor Unknown" (NENUK) exhibit. The opening ceremony will be September 21-23 and will coincide with American Indian Heritage Day which is a statewide observance. A \$30,000 grant was received from the National Park Service that will be used for bringing the Indian Advisory Panel in to review the exhibit, to assist in funding programs scheduled for the opening, to produce new docent-led tours of the exhibit, and for printing exhibit-related publications.

Steve Lozar mentioned that he has been bringing Tribal Council people to the Society and would like an invitation to be sent to each Tribal Chairman inviting each Council member to the opening. Steve has always been impressed with how the Society treats the traditional artifacts, and this would be a terrific opportunity to share this with other tribal members. George Horse Capture said he has had the opportunity to look at some of the material, and being a curator for most of his life, he would be willing to make some suggestions. He feels that some of the items are incorrect, and if this is going to be done, it should be done correctly.

### **Rendezvous Update**

Kirby reported that all of the planning for the Western Rendezvous of Art has been completed and the Rendezvous will take place August 17-20. The event will kick off with a barbeque on the front lawn of the Society and will focus on NENUK. The lobby display, "Got Art?" features new acquisitions to the collection and a few Legacy pieces. The Rendezvous Legacy Collection was started by selecting a certain piece from the Rendezvous each year to add to the museum's collection.

### **Montana Mosaic DVD**

Linda Wruck gave an update on the DVD. She has been working with Julie Saylor, the Photo Archives, and a producer to pull together twelve stories on 20<sup>th</sup> century Montana history which basically became short films. The DVD runs a little over three hours. It is a great way to bring what the Society has to everyone in Montana. The DVD will arrive the first week of August and will then be distributed to all middle and high schools. A grant was written to the Montana Committee for the Humanities that funded a three-day teaching institute which included 20 teachers from across the State. The Office of Public Instruction will put the DVD into a video format so it can be viewed from a website. Some stories are the Fort Shaw basketball team, Global Conflict in Montana, Jeanette Rankin, etc. Linda will be conducting a workshop at the History Conference on how to use the DVD. The DVD has been publicized through press releases, our website, and OPI.

### **Other Pertinent Issues**

A suggestion was made to have a Board fund in which each Trustee would put in \$100 -- \$50 would be used for the picnic the night before and the other \$50 would be used for various items such as sending flowers, etc. It was agreed that this would be a good idea, and the money would be held as petty cash in the Director's Office, not a checking or savings account.

Jack Lepley had some complaints with the committee system. He felt some decisions were made by committees that never came to the full Board. Jack has not found anything in the bylaws that gives the Executive or Finance Committees the right to make Board decisions. He thought decisions should be made with input and votes from the entire Board. Sharon Lincoln said that she did not think anything was being kept from the rest of the Board. Jim Utterback asked Jack if he had specific examples. Jack felt that the whole process of selecting the new Director was not open to the Board. He also asked why the Executive Committee meets an hour before the Board meeting starts and why this information is not being discussed during the Board meeting. Sharon said the Executive Committee discusses issues to bring before the Board, but nothing is decided. Jim Utterback said that all Board members should be able to attend all committee meetings, and Sharon agreed. Jim Court said that it is perception; he did not know that he was welcome to attend the Executive Committee. Bill Holt disagreed with Jack. He said that when he was the Board president he looked through the bylaws and found that there are mandated committees that the Board has to have by law. It was mandated how many are on the Executive Committee. One person was added to this Committee when the Society acquired Virginia and Nevada Cities.

Sharon Lincoln read from Section 22-3-106 of the revised Montana Code Annotated and section 2.6 Article VI. D. of the bylaws. Tom Nygard read from section 2.3 Article III. C. of the bylaws.

Jack Lepley said that he did not have a problem with how the Executive Committee is elected, but how this committee handles its business. Jim Utterback apologized for the way the Director's Search was handled if anyone did feel excluded. Katherine Lee said that it would be helpful to have the Executive Committee report at the Board meeting, and Sharon said she thought she had; they just didn't discuss much. Lee Rostad said she tried to keep everyone apprised of the Director's Search through email. As long as the Executive Committee comes back to the Board for decisions to be okayed then Jack said he has no problem.

George Horse Capture brought up another pertinent issue. He said that as an Indian person he gets a feel of exploitation from the use of the white buffalo on the shirts and jackets.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Library Deaccession**

Molly Kruckenberg presented the Library and Archives quarterly Deaccession List. The items are being deaccessioned because they are either duplicates or material that is not appropriate to the collection. For a number of years anything was accepted in the library whether or not it had



anything to do with Montana or the broader Western region. The staff is reviewing all material now and removing the items that do not fit into the Research Center collecting policy. The deaccession list is then put out to booksellers to bid on the list. Whoever bids the highest receives the books, and this money then goes into the Society Acquisition Trust fund. Any money that comes in from the sale of these books will go to further promote and add to the collections in all of the Society's collecting programs. **Jim Utterback moved to approve this deaccession, Tom Foor seconded, all voted in favor, and the motion passed.**

### **Library Deaccession Policy Change**

Molly Kruckenberg stated that currently only 100 titles are being deaccessioned each quarter per the Board approved Deaccession policy. She requested that the amount be changed to 150 titles. A few years ago the Board requested that small lists be presented to them so they would have time to review the lists. At the current rate of 100 titles, it would take several years to deaccession the excess material. **Jim Utterback moved to amend the current policy to deaccession up to 250 titles each quarter, Tom Foor seconded, all voted in favor, and the motion passed.**

### **Loan Request**

Kirby Lambert presented the loan request to the Central School Museum in Kalispell. This is the Beulah Clothier Collection which is currently on exhibit at the Central School Museum. It was donated to the Montana Historical Society while already on exhibit in Kalispell. Ms. Clothier supported the Central School Museum's request of leaving the exhibit there for another year. **Steve Lozar moved to accept the staff recommendation of the loan request to Central School Museum, and Bill Holt seconded.** George Horse Capture asked about the display cases of arrowheads that was in the photograph, and Kirby informed him that those were not part of the collection. Kent Kleinkopf asked about security, and Kirby said that it is a professional operation and he believed security would not be a problem. **All voted in favor, and the motion passed**

### **Museum Deaccession Requests**

Kirby Lambert presented the deaccession of two 3-pole backrest tripods that will be used in the hands-on area in "Neither Empty Nor Unknown". There are currently 23 tripods in the Sriver collection. They will remain in the Society but will be used. **Jim Murry moved to accept the deaccession, Lee Rostad seconded, all voted in favor, and the motion passed.**

### **Historic Records Network MOU**

Molly Kruckenberg explained the Memorandum of Understanding between the Montana Historical Society, the University of Montana Libraries, and the Montana State University Libraries and requested the Board's approval. **Jim Murry moved to accept the MOU, Lee Rostad seconded, all voted in favor, and the motion passed.**

### **Other New Business**

Jack Lepley asked if there were any new updates on the History Center and there were none.

Bill Holt asked about the C.M. Russell catalog. Kirby responded that we do have a plan, we want to do it, but we have to find the funding. One possibility is for the Society to do the catalog on its own, which would be good because we would maintain complete control of the project and receive all the credit, but the Society would be solely responsible for it. Another option is to have a co-publisher -- the Society would not have to pay for the whole thing, but would lose some control on how the book is to be done. It is unclear at this time what the exact cost of the project and what the run would be. Kent Kleinkopf asked if the project should be funded privately through the MHF. Tom Nygard said that it is definitely a project that should be done, but wondered how many of these projects the Society can take on. Kirby said that it might be possible to get a National Humanities for the Arts grant, but it would slow the process down. The project would take about two years at the very minimum to get it to the production phase. Jim Court said that it would be nice to have the catalog coincide with the big Russell exhibit that will be touring the country in 2009. Tom Nygard said that if a collector's edition is done, it could pay for the whole project. Richard Sims asked that the catalog issue be slowed down to let him get up to speed. It is very clear that there is support from this Board for this project at some time.

Steve Lozar gave an update on the National Bison Range herd which has been in Montana for over 100 years. Just this past year, the Salish-Kootenai tribes have taken over co-management and hope that within three years they will have full management. The herd is in very good health. This was a political issue as to whether or not the tribes could manage a bison range as they have been doing for the past 10,000 generations up until the last 100 years.

Steve Lozar also reported that school districts throughout the Reservation will have 300-400 kids in September participating in Sky Art. Sky Art is where people wear different colors and when viewed from the sky, creates a picture, similar to what was done in the 2006 Winter Olympics.

Steve Lozar asked Molly Kruckenberg if it would ever be possible to actually browse the shelves in the Library. Molly replied that unfortunately, no, due to security concerns and logistics. There are online functions on the catalogue that can be used so that patrons can feel as if they are browsing the shelves.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS AND PRESIDENT'S UPDATES**

### **Awards Committee Update**

Sharon Lincoln presented the three nominees for the Educator's Award: Robert Swartout, professor at Carroll College; Dale Alger, Roundup High School & Community Library; Glenn Thomas Garrison, Helena High, Capitol High, Medicine Lake High, & Thompson Falls High. The bylaws state that the selection committee selects three finalists which are brought before the rest of the Board and one is selected. A framed certificate will be given at the History Conference. George Horse Capture mentioned that it does not seem that the award is very competitive or desirable since only three were nominated. Sharon said that these awards are

listed in policy but maybe the word should be getting out more. **Jim Utterback moved that Robert Swartout receive the Educator's Award, Crystal Shors seconded, all voted in favor, and the motion passed.**

The nominees for the Trustee's Award are: Dale McAfee, White Sulphur Springs; Robert Bergantino, Butte; and Dorothy McLaughlin, Billings. **Tom Nygard moved that the Trustee's Award be given to Robert Bergantino, Tom Foor seconded, all voted in favor, and the motion passed.**

### **Other Committee Reports**

Sharon asked Jim Utterback to join the Legislative Committee and Katherine Lee to join the Award's Committee. Katherine also wanted to be on the Preservation Committee.

### **PUBLIC & STAFF COMMENT**

Sharon Lincoln invited everyone to her house in Billings the night of September 27 for light refreshments. This is the night before the History Conference. Jim Court invited everyone to a tour of Custer Battlefield on Wednesday during the day.

Marge Jacobson commented that the Friends of the Society gave out a small scholarship for two high school seniors that will be attending college in the fall. The volunteers are hoping to give scholarships each year. She also brought up the Military Museum at Fort Harrison and recommended that everyone should go visit it.

Sharon presented Lee Rostad with a copy of *Conveniences Sorely Needed* by Jon Axline signed by all the Board of Trustees members to thank her for her term as president.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

**Tom Foor moved to adjourn the meeting, Bill Holt seconded, all voted in favor, and the meeting adjourned at 2:50 p.m.**